

Illinois National Guard

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183rd Fighter Wing Change of Command Ceremony

Story by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr,
183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Col. John E. Patterson of Jacksonville, Illinois, assumed command of the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield, Illinois, Nov. 2.

The outgoing commander, Col. Ronald E. Paul of Springfield, Illinois, was promoted to brigadier general. The 183rd flag was passed to Patterson by Daniel Krumrei, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, during the ceremony, signifying the assumption of command.

Patterson has served in all aspects of flying operations to include chief of training, scheduling, standardization and evaluation, weapons and tactics, as well as, functional check flight pilot. He served as the 170th Operations Support Squadron Commander, 183rd Operations Group Deputy Commander, 183rd Maintenance Group Commander, 183rd Air Operations Group Chief of Strategy and the 183rd Mission Support Group Commander.



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Kerr, 183rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

(Right) Col. John E. Patterson of Jacksonville, Illinois, assumes command of the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield, Illinois, as he accepts the wing's flag from Daniel Krumrei, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, Nov. 2.

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Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A14 deployment ceremony



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Kyle Hessenauer,
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Five Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers who will deploy to Afghanistan as part of the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A14, were honored in a ceremony at Camp Lincoln, Nov. 14.

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Five Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A14, were honored in a ceremony at Camp Lincoln, Nov. 14.

The Soldiers will train for a brief time at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Afghanistan. The unique mission allows Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers to train and deploy side-by-side with their Polish counterparts. The Soldiers were selected for the mission based on their training and skills.

"Our 20-year partnership with Poland is the strongest National Guard State Partnership Program in the nation," said Daniel Krumrei of Springfield, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard.

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Recruiting hosts Reserve Officers' Training Corps 2014 summit

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – The Illinois Army National Guard (ILARNG) Recruiting and Retention Battalion hosted the 2014 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) summit at the Illinois Military Academy in Springfield, Illinois, Nov. 18.

Soldiers in the ILARNG who may not meet the minimum college credit hours to apply for Officer Candidate School (OCS) are often eligible to join ROTC at one of the 10 host programs across the state. The ROTC Summit is an opportunity for cadre and ILARNG leadership to come together and identify ways to increase the number of ROTC scholarships given to ILARNG Soldiers.

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VISION:

The Premier State Joint Force within the National Guard

MISSION:

The Illinois National Guard is a Joint Team of Citizen Soldiers and Airmen Ready to Help our Neighbors, Protect our State and Defend our Nation.

KEY TENETS:

Personal -- Professional
Organizational -- Ready
Responsive -- Accountable
Resilient -- Relevant



Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A13 returns



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Dutch Grove, Illinois Army National Guard Public Affairs Office

The Bilateral Embedded Staff Team (BEST) A13 returned to Camp Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, Dec. 19. The BEST A13 Soldiers were mobilized in April and deployed to Afghanistan. The team trained with the Polish Land Forces before deploying. The unique mission allowed Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers to train and deploy side-by-side with their Polish counterparts.

Airmen recognized for efforts during deployment

The Mobility Forum AMC

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. – Illinois Airmen were recognized for their efforts during a deployment Nov. 20.

Airmen with 126 Air Refueling Wing, Scott AFB, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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Courtesy photo

Capt. Todd Walker, Capt. Christopher Miller, and Staff Sgt. Jarrett Crawford from 375 Air Mobility Wing, Scott Air Force Base (AFB), with 126th Air Refueling Wing, Scott AFB, were recognized Nov. 20, for their efforts while deployed.

Illinois Army National Guardsman from Lemont honored for bravery and determination

Story by Capt. Dustin Cammack, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs Office

CHICAGO – Illinois Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Scott Johnson, a Purple Heart recipient from Lemont, Illinois, was among the inaugural inductees of the first ever Chicago Walk of Fame, held at the United Center, Nov. 20. Johnson accepted the honor on behalf of all local military who have served, past and present.

“There is no one better to represent our organization for this event,” said Capt. Dutch Grove of Sherman, Illinois, his former commander. “Sgt. 1st Class Johnson is the epitome of professionalism, high energy, with an unmatched work ethic.”

Johnson was selected to accept this honor based on recommendations from his leadership and his record of bravery and determination.

Chicago’s first ever Walk of Fame, organized by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey and the United Center, was a tribute to legendary figures who have helped shape the city of Chicago. Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson hosted the circus-style celebration that featured clowns, dancers and a painted elephant named Kelly Ann. The event concluded with all the honorees making handprints in cement and posing for photos.

“He was once at a point where he nearly lost the ability to be a Soldier,” said Grove. “Having bounced back from that, he will not accept

Peoria Soldier surprised on TV

Story by Fox50, Raleigh, N.C.

PEORIA, ILL. – The Steve Harvey show surprised Sgt. Maria McEnroe Prentiss of Peoria, Illinois, and her 10 children on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11.

For every Soldier brave enough to serve overseas, there’s a family at home, awaiting their return. As part of the specialty Veteran’s Day episode, Steve arranged the ultimate surprise reunion for a mom who has just returned home, from nearly a year overseas in Kuwait. Prentiss reunited with her family on the Steve Harvey show and her ten children had no idea.

Maria’s husband Todd was in on the secret and brought five of their children to the Steve Harvey set under the guise that they were going to talk to Steve Harvey about life as a military family. Little did they know that their mom was home from her deployment and ready to be reunited, live on the Steve Harvey set.

That’s not the only surprise that Steve Harvey had in store for the Prentiss family. Four of Maria and Todd’s children also serve in the U.S. Military. Steve surprised Maria and Todd, by bringing two of their four military children to Chicago.

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anything less than 100 percent from himself, from his leaders and from his subordinates.”

Johnson’s military career began in 1997 at the age of 17. He enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard as a transportation specialist in the 1544th Transportation Company in Paris, Illinois.

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U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Dustin Cammack, Illinois Army National Guard Public Affairs Office

Illinois Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Scott Johnson, of Lemont, and his wife, Jamie, pose after being honored at the first ever Chicago Walk of Fame, held at the United Center, Nov. 20. Johnson accepted the honor on behalf of all local military who have served past and present.

404th MEB Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



U.S. Army National Guard photos by Spc. Jason Dorsey, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Col. Troy Phillips of Petersburg, Illinois, commander of the 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, (left) with Heartland Community College President Rob Widmer; state Rep. Dan Brady and state Sen. Bill Brady, Normal City Council member Kevin McCarthy; and U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis, carried out a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Illinois National Guard's Normal Readiness Center at Heartland Community College in Normal, Illinois.

Domestic Operations Update

The seasons are upon us! Not only the holiday season, but also the season of requests for assistance of the Illinois National Guard to respond to emergencies within the state. As a state, Illinois faces many challenges in the form of natural or manmade disasters.



Col. Randy Sikowski
Chief of the Joint Staff

Many emergency responses are predictable, others are not. Flooding, snowstorms and cold spells are all predictable occurrences in Illinois and planned for based on weather predictions and flood modeling. Other responses are less predictable and require more in-depth planning and research. Domestic operations preparedness is one of many responsibilities of the Illinois National Guard (ILNG) Joint Staff in Illinois.

The ILNG Joint Staff is responsible for coordinating, planning, training and executing National Guard homeland defense.

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Lincoln's Challenge Academy, a mentoring program

Do you know a high school dropout?

- o Between the ages of 16 – 18 years old
- o Free of illegal drugs
- o Illinois resident
- o Not under indictment or convicted of a felony offense

If so, Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy has much to offer!

Lincoln's Challenge Academy's mission is to mentor, train and develop our youth into contributing members of our state by providing life skills through a variety of activities based on eight core objectives.

The Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy is a 17 and a half month program that involves 22 weeks of resident phase in Rantoul, Illinois, and a 12 month post-resident phase. The Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy is a co-educational, quasi-military training and mentoring program for at-risk youth. The academy works to develop the life skills, educational levels and employment potential of 16 to 18 year-old high school dropouts.

For more information, contact:

Academy's Placement Office 217-892-1307 or 1-800-851-2166. or visit our website at www.lincolnschallenge.org.

Air National Guard Band plays in Peoria

PEORIA, Ill. - The 182nd Airlift Wing, Air National Guard Band, Band of the Midwest performs January 28th at 8 p.m. for the ILMEA Opening Night at Peoria Civic Center.

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Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Tech Sgt. Charlene Delozier**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hackwork**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Steven Lolling**
Marseilles Training Center
- **Staff Sgt. Xavier Martillo**
1144th Transportation Battalion
- **Senior Master Sgt. Robert L. McCrary**
182nd Airlift Wing
- **Sgt. 1st Class James Rehmann**
HHC, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry
- **Master Sgt. William Revis**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Master Sgt. Renata Sellars**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Tech Sgt. Christopher Slater**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Tech Sgt. Valerie Tindle**
126th Air Refueling Wing

Warrior 2 Warrior Program benefits Guard Soldiers

Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - The Warrior 2 Warrior (W2W) program is the Illinois Army National Guard's (ILARNG) only direct, peer-based, support program for Soldiers who do not qualify for traditional veteran benefits because they have not deployed.

Born from the 'Buddy 2 Buddy' program, the Illinois National Guard W2W program supports the servicemembers and families.

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- **LCA brothers graduate with academic honors**
- **Illinois Soldier and pianist performs to honor veterans**
- **Jacksonville Soldier first to complete new warrant officer process**
- **Veterans Day Ceremony honors Fallen servicemember**
- **Retention recognition and ILNG 378th Birthday**
- **2014 State Christmas Tree Lighting**
- **Airman honored at Chicago Blackhawks game**

The Railsplitter

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DEADLINES

Story and photo submissions are due the 1st of each month to ng.il.ilarng.list.staff-pao@mail.mil

The Railsplitter is the official newsletter of the Illinois National Guard authorized by the Adjutant General.

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